

EXPLOSION OF CAPS WRECKS BUILDING

Toy Factory in Chicago Demolished and It is Known That Three Are Dead While Others Are Missing.

Debris Catches Fire and Flames Finish the Work of Destruction.

TWO STORY BRICK PLANT

Exact Cause of Catastrophe Not Known—Company Not Believed to Have Permits to Make Explosives.

Chicago, March 15.—Three persons, two of them being boys, were killed and eight others employed were injured today by an explosion of toy pistol caps which completely demolished the two-story brick plant of the Chicago Toy Novelty Company. The wrecked building caught fire immediately after the explosion and the bodies of the dead were so badly burned and mangled that it was impossible to recognize them except by remnants of clothing.

The building was occupied by three firms, employing nearly 100 persons each. It is believed that some others may have been killed but until the debris, which is piled 20 feet high, can be cleared away the exact number of dead cannot be ascertained.

It is not known what caused the explosion and so far as can be learned the company had no permit from the city for the manufacture of explosives.

PLACER GOLD STRIKE.

Report of Rich Find Comes From Far North.

Seattle, March 15.—A promising placer gold strike has been made on a nameless tributary of the Laird river, just below Black or Devils canyon, according to reports brought from the north on the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's Ramona, Captain Norman Nicholson. Laird river is in the interior of northern British Columbia.

The first news of the Laird strike reached Telegraph creek by a messenger sent out from one of the Hudson

Bay Company's Laird river posts. The messenger stated that an Indian had offered for sale along with his catch of pelts a quantity of coarse gold, which he had taken from the nameless Laird tributary. Some days later a party of twelve left Telegraph creek for the discovery, about 200 miles distant. They were greatly excited over the report.

In this connection two brothers, McLeod by name, left Wrangel by dog team a month ago for the same locality, though their mission was not at that time known. The McLeods are sons of a Hudson Bay agent, who years ago was stationed at the Laird post. He is supposed to have given his sons information which sent them to that remote region.

It is not thought unlikely by those who brought the news of the strike will overtake the McLeod boys. From the slowness which those leaving Wrangle displayed in starting as soon as the news arrived it is believed there that the full story as to the riches of the diggings has not been told.

The report of the find spread rapidly among the miners and prospectors along the upper reaches of the Stickeen and Telegraph creeks, and many were making preparations to leave for Laird. For the past six months old Cassiar miners have been pushing through Wrangel, ostensibly to work the property which they had thrown up years ago. Meanwhile the cost of transportation has been greatly reduced through the operation of a steamer on the Stickeen, and regular pack trains from Telegraph creek. The dominion government telegraph company in the operation of its line to Dawson built many miles of good trail through that section, making remote interior points much more accessible.

There is one hydraulic plant in operation in that section, known as the Tailout Creek Hydraulic Mining Company. It sent out \$50,000 worth of gold dust last season, and this in the face of being compelled to cease operations early because of a scarcity of water.

Mint Cashier Exonerated.

San Francisco, March 15.—United States District Judge Morrow today decided that William K. Cole, cashier of the United States mint in this city, is not responsible for the defalcation of ex-cashier Walter N. Dimmick, now serving seven years sentence for embezzlement.

Chauffeur Held Responsible.

New York, March 15.—Graese Teller, the chauffeur who was held responsible for the death of Mrs. Rathbone, an American widow, in an automobile accident at Cannes several weeks ago, was sentenced, says an American dispatch from Paris, to three months in jail and to pay a heavy fine.

JAPANESE FLEET MAKES FIERCE ATTACK ON PORT ARTHUR KILLING MANY RUSSIANS

Three Hundred of the Besieged Dead and Many Wounded During Bombardment--Attacking Force Escapes Unscathed.

Report of Battle Pronounced to Be Authentic--Vice-Admiral Makaroff Reported to Have Mined Peninsula at Port for Distance of Three Miles Seaward--Rumors More Plentiful Than News.

London, March 15.—According to the correspondent of the Daily Mail at New Chwang, General Kuropatkin has wired Lieutenant-General Spiesel that he must hold Port Arthur with the present garrison.

While there is no actual news from the theater of war, rumors are plentiful.

The Daily Express correspondent at Berlin gives an alleged official intimation from the Russian ambassador, Count Osten-Sacken, that Vice-Admiral Makaroff has mined all the coast of the peninsula at Port Arthur, the situation of the mines extending three miles seaward.

The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Yinkow says that the Japanese again attacked Port Arthur March 12 as a challenge for Vice-Admiral Makaroff to come out and fight.

During a heavy bombardment, the correspondent says, the Japanese were in a position of safety from the fortress. Russian casualties amounted to 300 killed and wounded. The correspondent adds that this is authentic.

REPORT VERIEST NONSENSE

Russians Have no Intention of Abandoning Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, March 15.—From the highest official quarter the Associated Press has received information that that there is absolutely no foundation for rumors persistently sent out from Tokio that the Russians are abandoning Port Arthur.

"It is the veriest nonsense," said the official informant of the Associated Press. "Nothing has occurred there to warrant such reports. The Japanese fleet has not been seen for 48 hours. The motive of the Tokio government in spreading this story is probably to influence public feeling in Japan for the purpose of creating enthusiasm while a war loan is being floated."

ADVANCE WORKS SMOOTHLY.

Russian Families En Route From Far East to Europe.

Mukden, March 15.—The machinery for the advance of the Russian forces is working smoothly from Harbin southward. The running of passenger trains has been resumed and Russian families are proceeding on their way to Europe without confusion. Severely cold weather, accompanied by blizzards and snow storms, has been followed by a succession of fine days. The health and spirits of the troops are good. Information has been received at headquarters to the effect that the Japanese are strengthening their positions in Corea.

General Linevitch, acting commander of the Russian forces in Manchuria, visited headquarters here on Sunday. General Zilinsky, who is to succeed General Pflug, Viceroy Alexieff's chief of staff, arrived here March 10.

Grand Duke Cyril arrived here today on his way to Port Arthur, whither he is going to act as chief officer of the squadron flagship.

DASH FOR VLADIVOSTOCK.

Believe that Russian Fleet Has Left Port Arthur.

Tokio, March 15.—It is strongly believed here that the Russian fleet abandoned Port Arthur after the fourth attack was made upon it by the Japanese fleet and is endeavoring to reach Vladivostock. Confirmation of this movement is not obtainable from any reliable source, but recent scouting in the vicinity of Port Arthur has failed to reveal the presence of any Russian warships. It seems logical enough that

the Russians should attempt a dash for Vladivostock where it is possible to dock larger ships, effect a junction with their armored cruiser squadron and secure a base for operations, while possessing adequate land defenses.

The hopelessness of continuing at Port Arthur is manifest, while a dash for Vladivostock might succeed, contrary to the opinion previously expressed. Vice-Admiral Togo is unwilling to run the risk of dividing his battleship squadron and continues to operate the six battleships together. If the Russians should make an attempt to reach Vladivostock, it is believed they will try to dash through the Korean straits rather than enter the Japanese sea through the Sugar straits.

Fleets Not United.

Paris, March 15.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris, says that rumors to the effect that Vladivostock and Port Arthur squadrons have been united are received with incredulity by the general staff. The correspondent believes that the rumors are probably due to Vice-Admiral Makaroff's frequent sorties.

OFFICERS UNDER ARREST.

Military Men to be Tried for Duplicating Pay Accounts.

San Francisco, March 15.—Lieutenant G. S. Richards, of the Twenty-third infantry, and Lieutenant B. Nielson, of the Twelfth cavalry, who arrived here from Manila on the transport Thomas, have come here under arrest, to appear before a court martial. They are charged with having duplicated their pay accounts in Philippines.

DEFENDS THE COMMITTEE

Griggs, of Georgia, Believes Report on Postal Fraud is Timely.

Washington, March 15.—During the discussion of the postoffice department appropriation bill today, the recent report of the postoffice department regarding congressional solicitation for clerk hire allowance and rental quarters to the government was again brought up. Griggs, of Georgia, got into an argument with Cooper, of Wisconsin, as to the authorship of the document and insisted over the protest of Cooper, that it was prepared under the direction of Bristow. He defended the committee of which he is a member, in giving publicity to the report, saying the United States is too powerful and too great to convict any man by the suppression of facts. He said that members of the house, after the threats to "tear the roof of the department" had turned tail and stated the department should investigate congressmen.

Burton of Ohio, delivered a carefully prepared speech on the question of increases in the national expenditures and warned the house against extravagance.

The right of the president to utilize the yachts Mayflower and Sylph was questioned by Cochran, of Missouri, who argued there was no authority in law for it.

STRIKERS ATTACK TRAIN

Union Employes Defy Police in Chicago and Terrify Non-unionists.
Chicago, March 15.—After a day of rioting in which several men were injured and others arrested, the striking employes of the American Can

Company tonight made a determined attack on the special train which carries non-union employes of the Diesel plant of the can company to their work at the Polk street station. A crowd of strikers climbed on the cars at Thirty-ninth street and attacked the non-union men. They were driven back by the police, who displayed revolvers, but the strikers bombarded the train with stones. At Thirty-seventh street another attack was made and several windows in the train were smashed, but no one was hurt.

Refugees Flee Russia.

New York, March 15.—The Hamburg-American liner Bluecher, which arrived today, brought 1765 steerage passengers, the majority of whom were refugees from Russia, who fled the country to avoid serving in the army.

ARRANGE GAME SCHEDULE.

Season of Baseball Fixed by League For Eight Months.

San Francisco, March 15.—The directors of the Pacific Coast Baseball League met tonight and adopted a schedule for an eight-month season. A peculiar feature of the schedule is that it provides that there shall be no games in this city during the four weeks in the middle of the season. This action was taken in order to give the outside towns more games.

ROOSEVELT ADMIRES ROOT

Expresses Regret that he Could Not Attend Banquet to Him.

New York, March 15.—Ex-Secretary Root was the guest of honor tonight at a dinner given by the Republican Club of the city of New York. Besides Root there were present Governor Odell, General Dodge, David B. Henderson, Judge Henry E. Howland, ex-Vice President Morton and J. Edward Addicks. President Roosevelt's letter of regret follows:

"If I could go to the dinner of any man it would be to the dinner of the Republican Club in giving in honor of ex-Secretary Root. I am bound to him not only by ties of recognition for his great and brilliant services to the nation and party, but by peculiarly close and intimate personal friendship. I wish your club and your guests all good fortune."

MURDERER SEEKS CONGRESS

Augusta, March 15.—Governor James H. Tillman, recently acquitted of murder for killing Editor N. C. Gonzales, will announce his candidacy for congress in an interview in the Augusta Chronicle tomorrow.

PREMIER STILL HOLDS THE REINS

Balfour Government Will Not Resign Because of Defeat in House of Commons Regarding Schools.

Stand Strengthened By Obtaining a Majority of Twenty-five Votes.

WANING PRESTIGE WEAKENED

Many Members Prefer Immediate Dissolution, and This May Take Place Sometime After Easter.

London, March 15.—Premier Balfour's government today was defeated in the house of commons by the combined liberal and nationalist vote. This reverse was due to the prohibition by Mr. Wyndham, secretary for Ireland, of teaching Gaelic in the junior grades of the Irish nationalist schools. Balfour, although defeated by a majority on this question, does not regard the vote as one of a want of confidence, and he will not resign on this account. His determination was strengthened by the fact that shortly after foregoing the defeat he was able to secure a majority of 25. The failure of the government to carry the house with it on the question of purely administrative policy in Irish departments is generally admitted to greatly weaken its already waning prestige although it is not thought probable that immediate dissolution will ensue.

The Associated Press learns that Premier Balfour regards it as one of essential principle for his party to hold the reins of government for the present at any rate. What he may do after Easter still remains in doubt. The blow administered today makes the premier's task of holding his party together doubly difficult, and many supporters of the government frankly said tonight that they favored early dissolution considering the experience of today.

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Astoria - - - New York

This is not a railroad advertisement, but simply a way we have of telling you that the only way to know "the Latest" in all Big Cities is to watch

GRIFFIN'S SHOW WINDOW

This week, in one window a new lot of sheet music just received direct from Eastern musical centres. In the other "Come and see for yourself."

Chicago - - - Boston